

We would respectfully direct the attention of our Country Subscribers to the mode we have adopted of signifying to them, when the period of their subscriptions expire, and when they become due—the substitution of a salmon envelope to their paper instead of one of the ordinary nature.

On going to press, we have received a communication from the solicitor of Sir R. Morrison, having reference to an article which appeared in the eleventh number of *THE BUILDER*, under the head of "Dublin Architects." At present, only sufficient time is allowed us to express our sincere contrition, that, by giving too ready insertion to the letter complained of, we should have been supposed to sanction, in any way, the tone and spirit which breathe throughout our correspondent's epistle. On the contrary, it will be found, on referring to our remarks appended at the time, that we deprecated, and that in the strongest manner, the personalities in which our correspondent indulged.

THE BUILDER, NO. XVI.

SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1843.

CARPENTERS' BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

THE managers of this institution have been kind enough to forward a ticket, entitling us to the privilege of accompanying them and their friends on the proposed excursion to Basingstoke, on Whit-Monday, June 2nd. We duly appreciate the compliment, but we cannot consent to creep under the wings of charity to the enjoyments of that day. Our ticket we shall pay for at least, and exert our best influence to swell the receipts, by sending as many as we can to join the goodly company. The price, however, is so low, that we apprehend there cannot be a surplus to benefit the institution. But perhaps the object of the managers is to draw attention to their laudable work, and by a social gathering of this nature to encourage one another in the continued zealous discharge of their duties.

Five shillings and sixpence for a ticket, to free the holder a journey the whole way to Basingstoke and back, ninety miles, and by railroad! appears an extremely low sum, and if the managers have so arranged that this can be accomplished with benefit to the funds of the institution, directly or indirectly, they are well worthy of their post.

That they will, or ought, by this species of managerial enterprise, to accomplish a great amount of good indirectly, we cannot for one moment entertain a doubt; and the object of our dwelling upon the matter on the present occasion, is to add our feeble voice in the plea for a large and liberal measure of support from the class, and the friends of the class, in aid of their poorer brethren. There is quite enough to tempt any man to join them without one single bit of sentiment or feeling of brotherly love; the very selfishness of the selfish is appealed to, for, besides this five-and-sixpenny ride through the country, and to an interesting rural market-town, with all the accessories so grateful to those who languish for a peep at unsmoked nature, and a salutary retreat, though but for a day, from this great coop of London. Besides all this, there is for the carpenter and the builder generally, a treat that very few rides of this extent could procure; there is at Basingstoke, hard by the railway,

the ruins of what was once the most beautiful and elegant structure of the district, we mean the Holy Ghost Chapel; it is indeed to us, and will be to all who feel an interest, as we do, in Masonic art, a most interesting relic, and is of itself worth five times the sum to go and see.

Then there is the charming village of Old Basing, about two miles from Basingstoke, with its picturesque cottages, rendered principally so by the number of fine old brick chimneys that in their boldness and variety shame the face of the modern bricklayer, with his invariable two-foot cube perched on the party wall, or a ridge of pinched-up slating. These cottages you catch a view of before arriving at Basingstoke, in fact, the railway runs over the village, and divides it so that, right and left, looking from the carriages, the travellers on this excursion will have a foretaste of that which a walk will procure for them in full satiety after they have arrived at Basingstoke; but there is more, there are the ruins of the Old Abbey, the garden walls of which, in "solemn grey," with their massive structure, putting us to the blush again for our nine-inch trumpery of modern economy; and there is the glorious old barn standing to attest how much of obliquity they of Ely have incurred for the demolition of that noble relic of this class, the record of which appeared in our journal of two or three weeks back. The roof of this barn is a fine example of the solid substantial character of former carpentry, and it is ornamental withal. To those who understand how to embrace and enjoy the varied treat which this day's excursion proposes to them, we have said enough to direct them in the pursuit of it, and if we should have stimulated any, for the cause of brotherly charity, to join in this agreeable festival, for festival it is, we shall for ourselves reap a full reward.

ARCHITECTURAL MODELLING.

WE cannot violate the maxims of common sense by any intermeddlings of our own with Mr. Liddell's communication; it is so clear, simple, full, and pertinent; ingenious and ingenuous, that we must have it speak for itself; the greatest compliment we could have paid us is in this class of communication, and to have secured so much of the approbation of such minds. We have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. Liddell personally, but have as good a measure of him as any intimacy would bring. He has done a great service to art, and particularly to ours; by his generous communication, he will have been the instrument of contributing to the gratification and enlightenment of thousands. We will have his powder worked up, and are ready to carry out his excellent intentions, by doling out portions to our friends who may apply. Modelling upon this principle should become a fireside amusement, and for its power of instruction there is no estimating it sufficiently. Ladies may now, at no cost, and without soiling a finger, construct for themselves; they may design and build; they may gather that knowledge of architecture without which all their prattle on the subject is mere verbiage, and *talk they must*; but why should they be degraded into the mere echo of the fashion-master, descending on the last new cut of the revival, the latest mode or rage of the copyist? This modelling should be an excellent handmaid to the philosophy of architecture; but, as Mr. Liddell shews, it has a wider range, or, at any rate, has a range that goes beyond mere structural representations. With the aid of optical ingenuity, various ef-

fects may be portrayed to the life; indeed, there is no saying to what end a facility, in modelling, such as this supplies, will tend; we are, for the sake of our art and our class, truly thankful to Mr. Liddell. His papyrus powder is an invaluable discovery.

THE DESTRUCTION OF GREENWICH PIER.

ON Tuesday last night, the inhabitants of Greenwich were considerably alarmed by the announcement, that one of the immense piles in front of the stone pier had broken, which would probably lead to the destruction of the entire edifice. For some time past the end of the pier, next to Garden Stairs, had shewn signs of dilapidation, and piles were driven to make a coffer-dam, for the purpose of carrying on such repairs as the gradual sinking of the pier, during the last two months, rendered absolutely necessary; but the public was scarcely prepared to hear of the sudden and almost complete destruction of this costly building. The first alarming indications of its insecurity were shewn soon after daybreak on the morning in question, when some men, who were at work on the pier, felt the steps on which they were standing crack under them; later in the day, a loud report, like the explosion of artillery, was heard, occasioned by the springing of one of the large piles which support the brickwork and masonry. Several persons were on the pier at the time of this occurrence; happily, however, they escaped unhurt, although much alarmed by the danger of their situation. As soon as an examination could be made, it appeared that the damage extended to at least three-fifths of the pier, which is 320 feet long, and 80 feet deep, from the bottom of the piles. The Parade presented an alarming appearance, from the large fissures in the brickwork, and the sinking of the stone pavement. The stairs were so much damaged as to lead to the belief that they would be completely destroyed, while the bulging out of the front wall, in some parts even above the water-mark, indicated that the lower parts of the work were extensively injured. The heavy masses of brickwork which supported the massive iron railings and posts continued to crack and sink in every direction. Such was the state of things on the first day. The news spread rapidly through the metropolis, and it was predicted by many persons who were competent to form an opinion, that when the tide went down, the whole of the building would give way, as the foundation of the pier had, from the outset, by most persons, been considered insecure. Every precaution was therefore taken to guard against accidents. About 11 o'clock at night another loud crash was heard, which was attributed to the bursting of several of the piles. Early on Wednesday morning hundreds of persons thronged to the spot to see the realization of their prediction, and it then appeared evident to all that the complete destruction of the pier would inevitably follow; so great and so extensive was the injury which it had received. On Thursday morning one of the large beams of timber, called land-ties, which are clamped and bound to the piles, and placed horizontally under the water-mark, gave way with a loud crash, dislocating all the parts connected with it, and causing the Parade to sink yet more. A few hours afterwards, Mr. Roberts from the firm of Messrs. Grissell and Peto, and several other gentlemen interested in the subject, arrived on the spot. After a careful examination of the pier, they observed that the unfortunate disaster was occasioned by the insecurity of the foundation; it was necessary, for an erection of